

Mr. Speaker, this left-wing Democrat notion that we can borrow, tax, and spend our way into economic prosperity should now be disproven thoroughly in the minds of any reasonable person. Yet we learn today that inexplicably this administration still plans to shove the monstrosity of government-controlled health care down the throats of the American people. This will raise costs, decrease quality, rob the American people of their God-given freedom, rob our children of their future, and it will cost America many, many more jobs, Mr. Speaker. Where will the madness end?

THE BENEFITS OF THE RECOVERY ACT

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. One year ago the economy was declining by 6 percent. Over 600,000 Americans month after month after month were losing their jobs, with no relief. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that this Democratic Congress ensured that we brought forward was enacted to ensure that President Obama and his commitment as well would jump-start our economy, that we would create and save 3.5 million jobs, that we would give 95 percent of Americans who needed assistance a tax cut that we would deliver, and finally, that we would rebuild America through our roads, our rail, and our water infrastructure.

When we look at America today, we are doing better than what we were doing a year ago, but we have more to do. The American Recovery Act helped us to create new infrastructure, to train teachers, hire educators, and to improve health care. But we are ready to do more.

FIRST DO NO HARM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. The Hippocratic oath is well known for the phrase, "First do no harm." Unfortunately, we have continued to come down on this floor and ask a simple question. Where are the jobs? What business and industry needs is some certainty. What this Congress and administration continues to offer is more uncertainty, which translates into higher risks, which increases borrowing rates.

We should first do no harm. We should stop the government takeover of health care, which will raise rates and cost jobs. We should oppose a cap-and-trade scheme which will raise energy costs and destroy jobs. Shelving these two major Democratic proposals would do the most to return some certainty to the economy so business can work on maintaining and creating jobs.

AMERICA IS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if you would listen to the party opposite, you would not know that America is actually on a real trajectory for positive change in the area of jobs. When President Bush left office, for the last 3 months of his administration America was hemorrhaging jobs at the rate of 750,000 on average. And now, in January, only 22,000 jobs lost. Now we are going in the right direction.

You can't overturn and change over 8 years of Republican rule in simply a finger snap. But the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country to economic health. We have seen increases in GDP. We have seen increases in manufacturing. We have seen increases in significant indicators. And this country needs more help, but we are going in the right direction, which is something we were not doing when President Obama took office a year ago.

All the American people need to do is just look at the numbers. Things are getting better. And the message of doom and gloom can never match up to one of hope.

FOCUS ON JOBS

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week President Obama released his latest version of a government takeover of health care. And as you look at the details of his latest plan, it is not much different than the previous plans that the American people have continued to reject.

And while the American people are saying where are the jobs, and they want Congress to be focused on creating jobs, all that they get from this tone deaf liberal leadership is more government takeover, more taxes, and more policies that are running millions of jobs out of this country.

It is time that this liberal leadership start listening to the American people and work with those of us who have for months and months been saying we need to reduce the cost of health care, we need to address preexisting conditions, and we need to do common sense medical liability reform, and we need a focus on jobs instead of more taxes, more runaway spending, and more policies that are running jobs out of this country.

JOB CREATION AND HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we hear the question, should Congress be dealing

with job creation or with health care, as if these are unrelated. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed this past year, is already funding around this country an expansion of community health centers. It is funding already implementation and use of information technology in the health care fields. This is doctors' offices and hospitals, and in training the workers to use it. This provides, yes, jobs, as well as better health care for Americans.

In the health care legislation that is taking shape, based on the common principles of the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation, that too will lead to economic growth and jobs. In particular, not only will there be medical innovation, but it will assist small businesses and large with these large expenses they have in covering the health care of their employees. And less money will be wasted in exorbitant salaries and profits, and will actually go to providing health care.

OBAMACARE 2.0

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment with Obamacare 2.0. Apparently President Obama did not get the message Americans don't want a big government takeover of health care. This \$1 trillion health care bill is just more of the same: more spending, more taxes, and more government mandates. The American people want us to start over on health care, wipe the slate clean, and consider commonsense reforms that won't bankrupt our country.

But what Americans want the most of all are jobs. Where are the jobs? Government doesn't create jobs, but we can do things to allow the private sector to create jobs. We could do these three things: across the board tax cuts, increase domestic energy production, and stop the overregulation of business. Those three simple things would create jobs. If the President really wants to, this is where he should start.

CRITICIZING PROGRESS

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. If this wasn't so serious, it would be laughable. Eight years they had a chance, the other side here, to get this economy right. Eight years. And they are the ones that drove it into the ground and dares criticize when someone is turning it around so we are going in the right direction. Eight years. This didn't happen overnight when we started losing jobs. When President Bush left office we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. What did they do? Nothing.

Then you have President Obama come on board, started turning things